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SAC

OLC 78-0559

8 FEB 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

STAT FROM :
Acting Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : Intelligence Oversight Responsibility of the
Senate Appropriations Committee

STAT 1. Action Requested: None; for information only.
Ongoing adjustments resulting from the death last November of
Senator John C. McClellan (D., Ark.) have opened the possibility
of Senator William Proxmire (D., Wis.) succeeding to the
Chairmanship of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, which
handles the Committee's intelligence oversight functions.

STAT 2. Background: Senator McClellan was Chairman of
both the full Appropriations Committee and its Defense Subcommittee.
Senator Warren G. Magnuson (D., Wash.), who has succeeded
Senator McClellan as Chairman of the full Committee, is a member
of the Defense Subcommittee, but he can head only one such group
and he appears reluctant to relinquish his Chairmanship of the
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Education and Welfare.

Senator John C. Stennis (D., Miss.) would be next
in line for the Defense Subcommittee Chairmanship should
Senator Magnuson defer, but Senator Stennis would have to
give up Chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Public Works,
and there appears to be some opposition to the idea of
Senator Stennis' simultaneously heading both the full Armed
Services Committee and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.
The late Senator Richard B. Russell was the last man (1963-1968)
to wield such influence over both the authorization and funding
of Defense programs.

Senator Proxmire is next in seniority among Democrats on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. In order to assume its Chairmanship, however, he would have to give up Chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies. Assuming that he would be willing to do so, there still are some complicating considerations that could prevent him from taking responsibility for the Committee's intelligence oversight function. These include:

(1) The possibility that Senator Robert C. Byrd (D., W. Va.) may be named to fill the vacancy on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. Senator Byrd is senior to Senator Proxmire on the full Committee.

(2) Indications that Senator Magnuson is considering relocating responsibility for intelligence oversight away from the Defense Subcommittee. Under Senator McClellan, intelligence oversight was handled by an Intelligence Operations "Subcommittee" of the Subcommittee on Defense. Senator Magnuson may be thinking of creating (and Chairing) another such more or less informal group to handle intelligence oversight.

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3. ☐ Staff Position: We believe that the situation remains fluid. We will be monitoring this issue and submitting further reports as it develops. Background information on Senator Magnuson is attached.

SIGNED

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Attachment:
As Stated

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OLC:GMC:jms (6 Jan 78)

Senator Warren G. Magnuson (D., Wash.)

Senator Warren G. Magnuson was born in 1905. He holds a law degree from the University of Washington, and was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the mid 1930's. Senator Magnuson was first elected to the House in 1936, and to the Senate in 1944. He served as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S.N.R. during World War II.

Senator Magnuson has been primarily interested in domestic issues. He is especially noted for his long standing championship of consumer protection legislation, which predates the upsurge of interest in this area that has taken place over the past several years.

Senator Magnuson has worked closely with his junior colleague Senator Henry M. Jackson (D., Wash.) on many issues, but he does not appear to share Senator Jackson's strong views on foreign policy.

Senator Magnuson's term does not expire until 1980, when he will 75 years of age. The Agency has aided the Senator's office in dealing with a number of constituent requests and relatively minor problems over the years, but there is no indication that he has a particularly strong positive or negative attitude about the Intelligence Community.

TO : PLC Mr. 		DATE OF REQUEST 6 Jan 78
FROM : GMC 8 FEB 1978		SUSPENSE DATE
SUBJECT: Memo to the DCI re Intelligence Oversight Responsibility of the Senate Appropriations Committee		
NOTES		
COORDINATED WITH (List names as well as offices)		
NAME	OFFICE	DATE
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ACTION REQUIRED BY GLC		
routing sheet for your signature and memo and forward to DCI		